

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 COTONO 01600 161016Z

43

ACTION AF-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-08 ISO-00 EB-04 COME-00 TRSE-00 AID-05

IGA-01 SS-15 SP-02 NSC-05 CIAE-00 INR-05 NSAE-00

RSC-01 PRS-01 DRC-01 L-01 /057 W

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R 160922Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY COTONOU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6632

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L COTONOU 1600

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EFIN, DM, XY

SUBJ: KEREKOU'S DISENCHANTMENT WITH WEST AFRICAN MONETARY
UNION MEETING

1. SUMMARY; AFTER BEING TOTALLY EXCLUDED FROM SHARING IN THE PRIZES DISTRIBUTED BY SIX CHIEFS OF STATE AT THE WAMU CONFERENCE IN LOME, PRES KEREKOU ACCUSED HIS COLLEAGUES OF BEING UNJUST IN IGNORING THE RECENT OCAM RESOLUTION CALLING FOR A FAIRER DISTRIBUTION OF POSITIONS IN REGIONAL WEST AFRICAN ORGANIZATIONS AMONG MEMBER STATES. KEREKOU THREATENED TO FORGET AFRICAN UNITY AND GO IT ALONE RATHER THAN CONTINUE TO "MAKE OURSELVES BE RIDICULED" BY BROTHER STATES. END SUMMARY.

2. PRES KEREKOU RETURNED FROM LOME MEETING OF HEADS OF STATE OF THE WAMU ON 12 OCT OBVIOUSLY VERY ANGERED BY RESULTS OF MEETING. DURING A RADIO INTERVIEW AT THE AIRPORT, HE PULLED NO PUNCHES IN ATTACKING HIS "NEO-COLONIALIST" COLLEAGUES. KEREKOU'S ANGER AROSE FROM HIS INABILITY TO SECURE FOR DAHOMEY ONE OF
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PAGE 02 COTONO 01600 161016Z

THE SITES OR OFFICERS OF THE WAMU CENTRAL BANK AND WEST

AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK.

3. PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE FOR LOME, KEREKOU HAD ANNOUNCED THAT HE WAS GOING TO MEETING TO "LAY HIS CARDS ON THE TABLE" AND FIGHT THE PRE-ARRANGED DISTRIBUTION OF OFFICERS AND HEADQUARTER SITES. KEREKOU STATED THAT "CERTAIN CHIEFS OF STATE" HAD ARRANGED FOR THE DISTRIBUTION OF SITES AND OFFICERS PRIOR TO THE MEETING; AND THOUGH HE DIDN'T MENTION THEM BY NAME, THE BRUNT OF HIS REMARKS WERE AIMED AGAINST IVORY COAST AND SENEGAL WHO WERE "BEING MANEUVERED BY REMOTE CONTROL "FROM PARIS".

4. ACCORDING TO KEREKOU, SENEGAL AND IVORY COAST BOTH WANTED THE BCEAO HEADQUARTERS. FRANCE SUPPORTED SENEGAL AND SO IVORY COAST WITHDREW ITS CANDIDACY. DAHOMEY REFUSED TO ACCEPT THE PRE-ARRANGED DECISION AND INSISTED THAT THE MATTER BE BROUGHT TO A VOTE. PRESUMABLY DAHOMEY FOUND ITS ONLY ALLY IN NIGER, WHO WAS ALSO HOPING TO GET SOME OF THE SPOILS. NIGER HAD HOPED TO WIN THE SITE FOR THE WADB AND ALSO INSISTED THIS QUESTION BE BROUGHT TO A VOTE. KEREKOU RELUCTANTLY ACCEPTED THE RESULTS OF A DEMOCRATIC VOTE. (FYI: HEAD OF COTONOU BRANCH BCEAO INFORMED US AS EARLY AS 30 AUG THAT CHOICE FOR BANK HEADQUARTERS WOULD BE EITHER DAKAR OR ABIDJAN. ALTHOUGH FINAL DECISION TO BE MADE AT CHIEFS OF STATE CONFERENCE, HE IMPLIED THAT MAJOR MEMBERS OF BCEAO HAD MORE OR LESS DECIDED ON SITE FOR HEADQUARTERS . END FYI)

5. KEREKOU LASHED OUT AT HIS FELLOW CHIEFS OF STATE FOR IGNORING THE IDEALS OF PAN-AFRICAN SOLIDARITY WHEN "THEIR INTERESTS ARE AT STAKE". HE SAID AFRICAN NEO-COLONIALISM IS WORSE THAN FOREIGN IMPERIALISM AND ACCUSED THE OTHER HEADS OF STATE OF "POLITICO/ECONOMIC PROSTITUTION". HE CALLED ON THEM TO CEASE THE PRACTICE OF "WORKING IN THE SHADOWS."

6. THE FOLLOWING DAY FORNMIN ALLADAYE, IN ANOTHER PRESS INTERVIEW, ACCUSED THE PILLARS OF OCAM (READ IVORY COAST AND SENEGAL) OF GOING AGAINST THE DECISIONS MADE AT THE BANGUI OCAM MEETING, WHICH CALLED FOR SPREADING THE SITES OF REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS EQUITABLY AMONG ALL MEMBER COUNTRIES. ALLUDING TO BUT NOT NAMING HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY, HE SAID CERTAIN AFRICAN LEADERS DO NOT PRACTICE WHAT THEY PREACH.
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PAGE 03 COTONO 01600 161016Z

7. BOTH KEREKOU AND ALLADAYE INDICATED THAT THE DAHOMEANS TAKE THESE MATTERS SERIOUSLY AND THAT IF THEY ARE NOT LISTENED TO THEY WILL JUST HAVE TO STRIKE OUT ON THEIR OWN, BY "RADICALIZING THE REVOLUTION." ANALYSIS OF POTENTIAL DOMESTIC IMPACT IN DAHOMEY WILL BE CONTENTS OF SEPTEL.

8. COMMENT: AS ONE RADIO DAHOMEY JOURNALIST TOLD EMBOFF,

DAHOMY FAILED COMPLETELY AT THE LOME CONFERENCE. FURTHER,
KEREKOU ENDED ON A VERY SOUR NOTE BY CALLING HIS COLLEAGUES,
INCLUDING HIS HOST EYADEME, IMPERIALISTS AND NEO-COLONIALISTS.
NEVER A FAN OF HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY, DIPLOMATIC FAILURE AT THE
LOME MEETING WILL DRIVE DAHOMEY FURTHER APART FROM THE OTHER
MORE MODERATE FRANCOPHONE COUNTRIES AND PROBABLY FURTHER
TOWARD THE GUINEAN CAMP.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ECONOMIC INTEGRATION, MONETARY AGREEMENTS, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 OCT 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: shawdg
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974COTONO01600
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740294-0155
From: COTONOU
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741043/aaaabklz.tel
Line Count: 123
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: shawdg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30 APR 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <18 MAR 2003 by shawdg>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: KEREKOU'S DISENCHANTMENT WITH WEST AFRICAN MONETARY UNION MEETING
TAGS: PFOR, EFIN, DM, XY, WEST AFRICAN MONETARY UNION, WAMU, (KEREKOU, MATHIEU)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005